

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 26803 241155Z

41

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 STR-04 AID-05 IGA-02 L-03

SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 /073 W

----- 020907

R 241039Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6053

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 26803

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH

SUBJ: US RICE SALES IN USUAL THAI MARKETS

1. DURING A MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON DECEMBER 24, FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN THAT U.S. RICE EXPORTS DURING THE COMING YEAR WOULD CREATE SEVERE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FOR THAILAND. CHATCHAI SAID HE HAD LEARNED THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO EXPORT THREE MILLION TONS OF RICE THIS COMING YEAR. HE VERY MUCH HOPED WE WOULD HANDLE THIS IN A WAY WHICH DID NOT INTERFERE WITH THAI- AND'S USUAL MARKETS AND THE WE WOULD KEEP THE RTG CLOSELY INFORMED REGARDING OUR INTENTIONS.

2. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THIS MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO BANGKOK. HABIB HAD PROMISED THAT WE WOULD KEEP THE RTG INFORMED SO IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED REGARDING U.S. RICE EXPORTS. WE INTENDED TO KEEP THAT PLEDGE, BUT WE COULD NOT PROMISE MORE AT THIS TIME.

3. THE AMBASSADOR TOOK THIS OCCASION TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT REGARDING U.S. RICE SALES TO SINGAPORE AND HONG KONG. (THE DECEMBER 21 BANGKOK POST QUOTED MFA ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT CHIEF ASA SARASIN THAT THE U.S. PLANNED TO "DUMP" RICE IN SINGAPORE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 26803 241155Z

AND HONG KONG. ASA SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD THE DCM HE HAD BEEN

MISQUOTED.) THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT OUR RICE SALES TO THESE TWO AREAS WERE EXTREMELY SMALL, THAT WE WERE NOT COMPETITIVE BECAUSE OF OUR SHIPPING COSTS AND THAT THE PRC WAS THE BIG SUPPLIER. CHATCHAI EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THIS CLARIFICATION.

4. MFA UNDER SECRETARY ANAN, WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM HIS POST AS AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, SAID THE RTG WAS GREATLY CONCERNED BY INFORMATION IT HAD RECEIVED THAT WE WERE INVITING INDONESIAN GENERAL ARAFIN OF BULOG TO WASHINGTON. THE THAI WERE CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH BULOG FOR THE SALE OF 50,000 TONS OF RICE. ANAN ASKED THAT THE U.S. NOT INTERFERE WITH THIS SALE. HE NOTED THAT DISPOSITION OF U.S. RICE UNDER PL-480 HAD NOT BEEN A SERIOUS PROBLEM DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS BUT THAT, CONSIDERING THE EXCELLENT U.S. CROP THIS YEAR AND THE ABSENCE OF MARKETS FOR PL-480 RICE IN INDOCHINA, THAILAND WAS GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT U.S. INTERFERENCE WITH THEIR RICE SALES OVER THE NEXT THREE OR FOUR YEARS. ANAN, WITH CHATCHAI'S ENDORSEMENT, SAID HE VERY MUCH HOPED WE WOULD KEEP THAILAND IN MIND IN WORKING OUT SALES ARRANGEMENTS FOR OUR RICE. SERIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH THAI MARKETING COULD CREATE MAJOR SECURITY PROBLEMS. THAILAND NEEDED TO SELL AT A CERTAIN MINIMUM PRICE TO INSURE ADEQUATE RETURN OF THE FARMERS AND OBTAIN FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR URGENT PURCHASES. AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE REITERATED THAT WE WOULD KEEP THE RTG SITUATION IN MIND AND WOULD CONSULT WITH THE RTG.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON GENERAL ARAFIN'S TRIP TO WASHINGTON AND REPORTED THAI-INDONESIAN NEGOTIATIONS.  
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN MARKETS, RICE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BANGKO26803  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750447-0329  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751213/aaaaakrd.tel  
**Line Count:** 91  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US RICE SALES IN USUAL THAI MARKETS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EPAP, ETRD, TH, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006